

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 09986 020637Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 /075 W
----- 011880

R 020318Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4922

INFO USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COM US MACTHAI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9986

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (HABIB, PHILIP C.)

SUBJ: REMARKS ON ARRIVAL AT BANGKOK, JUNE 1

USIA FOR IEA

1. ON ARRIVAL JUNE 1, THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB AND THE PRESS.

2. BEGIN TEXT

HABIB: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR TO SAY, BUT I'LL SAY
ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO WITHIN REASON. I'M HERE, IT'S QUITE
CLEAR, AS PART OF A TRIP I'M TAKING AROUND THE AREA. OBVIOUSLY
I'VE JUST ARRIVED, SO I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY UNTIL AFTER I'VE
BEEN HERE A WHILE, THEN WE MIGHT TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

AP: COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT
INVOLVEMENT IN THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR, WHY THE STATE DEPARTMENT CHOSE
TO DISREGARD THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT IN
RESPECT TO THE MARINES ON THE BASES?

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 09986 020637Z

HABIB: ANYTHING THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD TO SAY ABOUT THAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT FOURTEEN TIMES. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO IT. I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DISCUSS THAT. I CAME HERE TO HAVE A GENERAL LOOK AROUND, AND I REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU FELLOWS ABOUT IT BESIDES WHAT'S BEEN SAID GENERALLY. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO IT.

AP: WELL, THIS QUESTION'S NEVER BEEN ADDRESSED REALLY.

HABIB: I'M NOT HERE TO ADDRESS IT.

UPI: WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR, MR. HABIB?

HABIB: PARDON?

UPI: WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?

HABIB: IT'S PART OF A TRIP I'M TAKING AROUND SOUTHEAST ASIA. IT'S AN OBVIOUSLY GOOD TIME FOR ME TO GET AROUND TO TAKE A BIT OF A LOOK AND LISTEN TO SOME OF THE VIEWS OF OUR FRIENDS IN THE AREA. I'VE BEEN TO AUSTRALIA, JAKARTA, SINGAPORE AND KUALA LUMPUR ON THE WAY UP, AND I'M HOPING TO HAVE A CHANCE TO DO A LITTLE LISTENING, GET AN IDEA OF WHAT PEOPLE THINK. OBVIOUSLY IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT EVENTS IN THIS AREA IT'S OF INTEREST TO US TO HAVE SOME CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT ASIANS ARE THINKING AT THIS TIME. FUNDAMENTALLY, THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR. AND I KNOW IT'LL DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT I'M NOT HERE FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE, I'M NOT HERE TO SORT OF REHASH ALL OF THE OLD NEWS THAT'S BEEN REHASHED BEFORE BY SPOKESMEN OF THE DEPARTMENT. POSSIBLY BEFORE I LEAVE, IF SOME OF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND I CAN PERSUADE THE AMBASSADOR, AFTER I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AROUND A LITTLE BIT, I'D BE PREPARED TO SIT DOWN WITH YOU, MAYBE ON THE WAY OUT, AND DISCUSS THINGS IN GENERAL.

AP: WILL YOU BE TALKING WITH ANY THAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHILE YOU'RE HERE?

HABIB: YES, THE EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED A NORMAL SCHEDULE, AND I WILL BE SEEING A NUMBER OF THAI OFFICIALS.

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 09986 020637Z

AP: ARE YOU GOING TO LAOS TOMORROW?

HABIB: I MAY GO UP TO LAOS IN THE MORNING OR IN THE AFTERNOON, SOMETIME TOMORROW.

AP: COULD YOU COMMENT A LITTLE ON WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION IN LAOS IN THE LAST WEEK OR TWO?

HABIB: NOT RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T. MAYBE, AS I SAID, ON MY WAY OUT
I MIGHT HAVE MORE TO SAY. GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SET IN BEFORE I
START TALKING.

REUTER: DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC SUBJECTS TO RAISE WITH THE
THAI GOVERNMENT?

HABIB: SPECIFIC SUBJECTS? NO. NO, I'M HERE PRINCIPALLY
AS I SAID -- I KNOW I'LL HAVE TO REPEAT THAT AT LEAST FOUR
TIMES -- I'M HERE TO GET THEIR VIEWS. AND I MEAN JUST THAT.
I INTEND TO DO MORE LISTENING THAN I INTEND TO DO TALKING.
OKAY? I THINK THE BEST TIME TO GET TOGETHER IS MAYBE WHEN I'M
ON MY WAY OUT. THAT'S BEEN MOST USEFUL IN THE OTHER PLACES,
AND THEY'RE BETTER SATISFIED AS A RESULT. END TEXT.
WHITEHOUSE

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